

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 06975-483WO1	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/US05/07204	International filing date (day/month/year) 07 March 2005 (07.03.2005)	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 05 March 2004 (05.03.2004)
Applicant AMERICAN ONLINE, INC.		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 11 sheets.



It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the Report

- a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of:



the international application in the language in which it was filed.



a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b))

- b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box No. II)

3. Unity of invention is lacking (See Box No. III)

4. With regard to the title,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regard to the drawings,

- a. the figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 3



as suggested by the applicant.



as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.



as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.



none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US05/07204

Box IV TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of Item 5 of the first sheet)

The technical features mentioned in the abstract do not include a reference sign between parentheses (PCT Rule 8.1(d)).

NEW ABSTRACT

Organizing a participant list includes maintaining a participant list of users of an electronic communications system to be used by a first user of the electronic communications system. Communications strengths between the first and each of the users included in the participant list are determined (320) (325). The users included in the participant list are organized based on the corresponding communications strengths. Communications strengths may be determined for users included in a group within the participant list, and the user within the group may be organized within the group based on communication strength. An additional group in the participant list in which some or all of the users included in the participant list are organized based on communications strengths may be provided. Additional users may be added to the participant list, based on the communications strengths between the first user and the additional users (330). New users may be added to the participant list in response to notifications of the new users that are sent to the first user (335). Identifiers included in the participant list may be categorized into groups within the participant based on attributes associated with the identifiers (340).

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US05/07204

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G06F 15/16

US CL. : 709/206

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 709/204,207; 707/1,3; 705/1

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y, P	US 2005/0050143 A1 (GUSTER et al.) (03 March 2005 (03.03.2005)), Abstract, Figures 3-6, page 1, paragraph [0009].	1-119
Y, P	US 2004/0215721 A1 (SZETO et al.) (28 October 2004 (28.10.2004)), Figure 4, page 3, paragraph [0034].	37-40, 48-89, 116-119
Y, P	US 2004/0122810 A1 (MAYER) (24 June 2004 (24.06.2004)), Abstract, paragraph [0091].	1-142
Y, P	US 2004/0117443 A1 (BARSNESS) (17 June 2004 (17.06.2004)), Abstract, page 5, paragraphs [0046]-[0047].	48-83, 120-142

<input type="checkbox"/>	Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	<input type="checkbox"/>	See patent family annex.
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Special categories of cited documents:	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
07 February 2006 (07.02.2006)	15 FEB 2006

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201	Authorized officer <i>Andrew Caldwell</i> Telephone No. 571-272-3868
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
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Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:**EAST Search:**

Search terms: maintaining, categorizing, sorting, organizing, attendee, attendants, participants, buddy lists, friends, users, instant messaging or IM.